

2013

Allagash Wilderness Waterway Annual Report. 2013

Maine Bureau of Public Lands

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

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2013 ANNUAL REPORT

12 MRSA § 1891-B. Reporting

Public Law, Chapter 146 of the 123rd Legislature established reporting requirements for the Allagash Wilderness Waterway as follows:

The commissioner shall report on or before March 1st of each year to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over conservation matters regarding the state of the waterway, including its mission and goals, administration, education and interpretive programs, historic preservation efforts, visitor use and evaluation, ecological conditions and any natural character enhancements, general finances, income, expenditures and balance of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Permanent Endowment Fund, the department's annual budget request for the waterway operation in the coming fiscal year and current challenges and prospects for the waterway.

This document contains our report for 2013. We invite you to read about our progress and accomplishments.



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Policy

The AWW Act of 1966 contains the following statutory policy language:

§1871. Declaration of policy

Whereas the preservation, protection and development of the natural scenic beauty and the unique character of our waterways, wildlife habitats and wilderness recreation resources for this generation and all succeeding generations; the prevention of erosion, droughts, freshets and the filling up of waters; and the promotion of peace, health, morals and general welfare of the public are the concern of the people of this State, the Legislature declares it to be in the public interest, for the public benefit and for the good order of the people of this State to establish an area known as the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.

Report from the AWW Advisory Council

Date: February 24, 2014

To: Katie Richard

From: Frederick L. Denico– Chair AWW Advisory

This year we had three meetings; one each in Augusta, Millinocket and Ashland. Some of our efforts were focused on the understanding of AWW statutes to insure we follow the statutory directives – “work with the manager of the Waterway in developing and maintaining a strategic plan for the Waterway and advancing the mission and goals of the Waterway and report annually to the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands.”

At each meeting the AWW Manager gave a report about the Waterway. Other various ongoing discussions included future projects and the movement of snowmobile trails. (Further discussion will occur at a later date.) Also, Charlie Cianchette VP and Bill Birney of Cianbro were presented a commendation and framed picture of Telos Dam. This was in appreciation for all their work performed on the dam over a period of 6 years with Cianbro staff and equipment. Charlie is a member of the Lock Dam Preservation LTD nonprofit. In October four members of the nonprofit were flown up to Chamberlain Bridge Camp for technical help with the modification design to the camp and parking lot camper water system. There is ongoing discussion about tramway visitations by trail and also IF&W possible rule changes. These will be discussed at length in the future.

At our Augusta meeting, Paul Meyeqski, Director of the Climate Change Institute and his staff from the U of M gave a presentation on climate change and it's possible effects on our North Maine Woods and AWW. They are interested in performing a North Maine Woods study on this matter.

The waterway is being operated in a user friendly manner for all visitors during all seasons through the leadership of the manager. This insures the public's visits are enjoyable and safe. Both Will Harris and Tom Morrison have been very supportive of the manager's efforts and attend our advisory meeting when possible.

We try to schedule our meetings four times a year on Friday mornings. When in Augusta, we have been able to broadcast them in the same manner as the Legislature.

Forest Harvest Notifications/Applications

In 2013 there were a total of 28 active forest harvest notifications (FONS) within the mile zone of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW).

Five notifications were for harvests within a mapped visual area of the AWW. One of the visual area applications proposed to exceed the standards because of dead or dying conditions in the harvest area. All visual area harvest applications were inspected prior to harvest activity by the AWW Superintendent, and a Forester with the Bureau of Parks & Lands, and an appropriate landowner representative. All visual area harvest applications were approved with conditions to minimize the visual impact of the harvest area, associated skid trails and log landings.

Eight notifications were received for road construction within the mile zone that were not visible from the watercourse. These roads were all associated with timber harvests adjacent to the AWW.

There were three notifications for the application of herbicide within the mile zone. One for road side brush control and two were for small timber stand improvement plots that were sprayed by helicopter.

There were three applications received for road construction within the quarter mile new construction zone. These were all approved with the conditions that they be seeded and blocked at the mile zone after harvest.

Ecological Studies:

Martin Stream Report:

Martin Stream is believed to have been an important lake whitefish and trout spawning area historically, but has been altered significantly by the creation of Lock Dam in the mid 1800's and diversion of water to the Penobscot Drainage. Current water management in Chamberlain allows Martin Stream to flow year-round, with hopes of improving spawning and rearing habitat for fish in Big Eagle Lake. IF&W fisheries staff visited Martin Stream in November 2012 to search for fish spawning activity and evaluate habitat in the stream. No whitefish were observed and it did not appear that the stream was used by whitefish. However, it was evident that brook trout from Big Eagle Lake are using the stream to spawn. Six brook trout redds, or spawning nest were observed a short distance downstream from Lock Dam.

Martin Stream was visited again in the fall of 2013, no evidence of whitefish spawning was found. Brook trout redds were observed in the exact same spots as in 2012

Allagash Wilderness Waterway Budget

In FY 13 the allocated "all other" general fund budget was \$119,477.00. The allocation for the AWW Capital Improvement Account was \$47,000. The allotment shown below includes the work programs and adjustments made through financial orders.

<i>Allotment Source</i>	FY-13 Q 1	FY-13 Q 2	FY-13 Q 3	FY-13 Q 4	Total
General Fund (all other)	\$64,825.00	\$19,132.00	\$16,931.00	\$18,589.00	\$119,477.00
AWW Account (capital repairs)	\$5,000.00	\$20,000.00	0	\$10,000.00	\$35,000.00
AWW Account (repairs & maint.)	\$2,000.00	\$10,000.00	0	0	\$12,000.00
Total	\$71,825.00	\$49,132.00	\$16,931.00	\$28,589.00	\$166,477.00

Revenue

The Division of Parks and Public Lands collects fees for AWW camping use, relying mostly on a contract with North Maine Woods, Inc. for fee collection services. Fiscal year reporting is July 1-June 30.

From revenues received from camping fees, Maine law requires that a portion of that amount be set aside in a non-lapsing account to be used for capital improvements in the AWW. The table below shows the calculated revenue to this special account.

Fiscal Year	Revenues from Fees
2009	\$83,652.76
2010	\$104,875.81
2011	\$97,562.91
2012*	\$130,222.95
2013	\$102,268.08

* The figure includes two commercial sporting camps, and occasional state grant reimbursement.

Fiscal Year	Revenue to AWW Account
2009	\$53,683.00
2010*	\$103,103.50
2011	\$55,007.80
2012	\$61,612.12
2013	\$50,894.10

* The 2010 amount includes funds to correct for transfers that should have been made as a result of increased user fees for non-residents.

AWW Endowment Fund: \$193.00 is in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway endowment fund. This is an interest bearing trust account at the Department of Treasury.

Allagash Wilderness Waterway Fiscal Year 13 Expenditure Report (July 1, 2012—June 30, 2013)

	AWW Account (dedicated rev)	General Fund (gen operations)	Loon Account (dedicated rev)	Donations Account (dedicated rev)	Poland Spring Account (dedicated rev)	TOTAL
Expenses - FY13						
Salary and Benefits		422,115.93				422,115.93
Professional Services	3,000.00					3,000.00
Medical Supplies						0.00
Water tests		271.00				271.00
Gas (for equipment)		11,632.79			5,295.68	16,928.47
Lodging, Meals, Mileage	806.66	1,166.95			93.28	2,066.89
Telephone						0.00
Electric		207.80				207.80
Other utilities		124.41				124.41
Rent of Land						0.00
Rental of State Vehicle		44,592.70				44,592.70
Repair - Equipment		5,222.53			168.28	5,390.81
Repair - Boats		3,729.59			1,556.18	5,285.77
Repair - Roads and Grounds	12,339.64	1,298.24		292.02		13,929.90
Repair - Buildings	1,941.02	16,158.26	403.61		-185.02	18,317.87
Repair - Misc.		56.94				56.94
Trash Removal		163.95				163.95
Snow plowing		285.84				285.84
General Operations		2,909.31			368.41	3,277.72
Non-Employee Settlement						0.00
Occupational Health/Rehab						0.00
Employee Training		2,268.00				2,268.00
Food		771.18		500.00		1,271.18
L.P. Gas		8,270.34				8,270.34
Fuel Oil		312.93				312.93
Firewood		2,640.00				2,640.00
Misc. Supplies & Minor Office Equip		8,582.61			86.85	8,669.46
Clothing		4,551.60				4,551.60
Pinter		123.17				123.17
Equipment (garage shop equip)		11,054.29				11,054.29
Grants to Public/Private Organiz.						0.00
Administrative Charges*	2,502.88	8.46	12.63	102.97	1,128.49	3,755.43
Material Purchases for Resale						0.00
CAP Equipment			10,855.69			10,855.69
CAP Buildings & Improvements	951.50					951.50
CAP Structures & Improvements	5,132.21					5,132.21
CAP Infrastructures & Improvements	972.20					972.20
TOTAL EXPENSES	27,646.11	548,518.82	11,271.93	894.99	8,512.15	596,844.00

CASH BALANCE IN AWW ACCT AS OF 7/01/13 **130,775.08**

* Includes total of STA-CAP and DI-CAP on all expenditures and late fees.

Expenditures from the AWW Capital account included: Replacing 30 feet of outlet culvert at Lock Dam, repair of Lock Dam access road, demolition of buildings at Telos Dam, new access road at Telos Dam, putting old Telos Dam road to bed, construction 1,000+ feet of bog bridge at Indian Stream trail, construction of handy-cap privy at Michaud Farm, electrical repairs and new water pump at Chamberlain, and reconstruction of the last gate at Telos Dam.

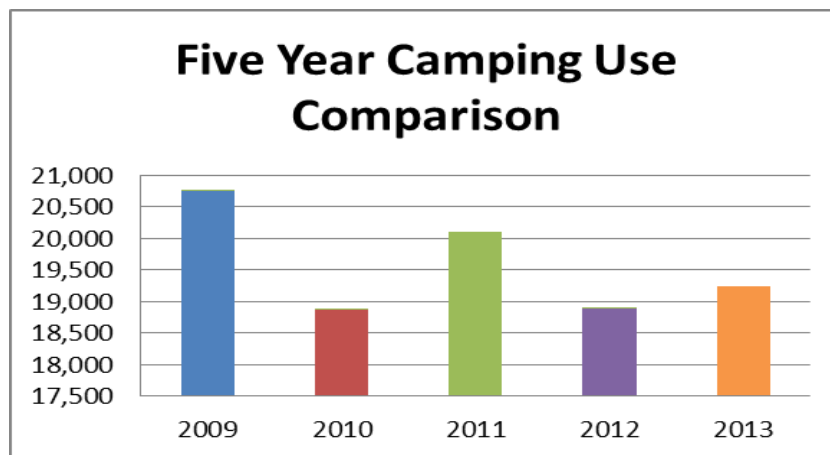
Recreation

Total public use decreased by less than 1% in 2013. Day use decreased by 7%. Camping use increased by slightly less than 2%, and sporting camp use continued its steady growth with an increase of 6%. There is a significant amount of undocumented day use by visitors staying at North Maine Woods campsites and camp owners that own camps adjacent to the waterway. Nonresidents comprise approximately 55% of the camping use in the waterway.

The waterway had excellent water flows throughout the entire canoe season and the fishing was very good during the spring and fall. I suspect that some weekend fishing trips to the waterway were cancelled because of the rainy spring.

Year	Parties	Persons	Camp-ing Nights	Sport- ing Camp Days	Day Use	Total Visitor Days
2009	1,199	4,533	20,745	2,664	5,752	29,170
2010	1,145	4,267	18,860	3,507	6,297	28,664
2011	1,087	4,159	20,091	3,702	9,768	33,561
2012	1,105	4,286	18,892	4,031	8,750	31,673
2013	1,167	4,273	19,247	4,213	8,117	31,577

Day use destinations were reported by visitors to NM Woods checkpoint attendants.



Oversize Group Permits

In 2013 there were 5 permits issued to 3 exempt organizations.

Year	Exempt Organizations	Permits Issued
2011	4	8
2012	4	8
2013	3	5

Projects Accomplished by Staff, Volunteers, and Contractors in 2013

Built 20 picnic tables, installed 16 tables with tarp poles.
 Placed a 12 foot pine log on the restored section of the tramway.
 Continued with restoration of the Taylor Camp:
 Jacked & leveled, placed on tamarack posts with concrete pads.
 Added porch on the camp.
 Installed oakum chinking and $\frac{1}{4}$ round between logs, inside and out.
 Umsaskis Ranger Station repairs:
 Removed old shingles and installed new shingles on ranger station.
 Removed old shingles and installed new shingles on the shed roof.
 Replaced one gable end of the ranger station (woodpecker damage).

Umsaskis Canoe launch repairs:

Graded access road to parking lot.

Installed water diversion mound at entrance to parking lot to eliminate ongoing erosion problem at this location.



Taylor Camp

Installed handicap accessible vault privy.
 Closed existing parking area next to the Michaud Farm ranger station which was within sight of the river.
 Constructed a new 50'x 90' parking area behind the Michaud Farm ranger station, new parking lot is:
 Out of sight of the river.
 Screened from the road.
 Handicap accessible (vault privy and parking spaces).
 Churchill Dam:
 Installed three pins on the fishway retaining wall, documented readings (to monitor movement of the wall).

Routed cracks in the top of the fishway retaining wall and filled.

Put to bed 3330 feet of the old Telos Dam access road that ran along the shore of Telos Lake.

Constructed 1687 feet of new access road to Telos Dam. New road accesses Telos Dam from the east utilizing existing BPL forest management roads.

Razed the buildings at Telos Dam, buried debris, seeded and mulched area.

Reestablished property lines of the Telos Dam lot on the north side of Webster Stream.

Repaired damage from fire at Chamberlain Bridge ranger station:

 Installed new metalbestous chimney.

 Repaired charred rafter and collar tie over woodstove.

 Constructed new hearth for woodstove.

 Installed new woodstove.

 Replaced electrical wires/outlets in kitchen.

 Installed new ceiling in kitchen/living room.

 Installed new floor in kitchen/living room.

Removed unsafe chimney at Camp Drake and replaced with a metalbestous Chimney.

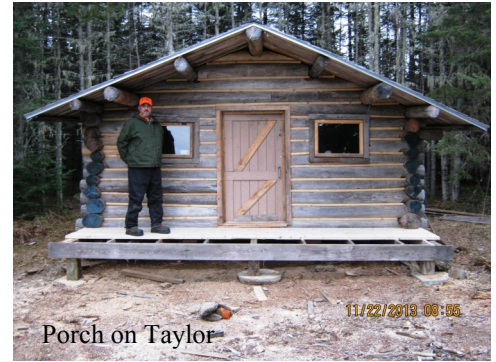
Removed old shingles and installed new shingles on woodshed at Churchill Dam.

Cleaned and revitalized old spring at Lost Popple Campsite.

Rebuilt water house at the Chamberlain Bridge parking lot.

Finished the Google Earth campsite project for the waterway; linked to the North Maine Woods and Bureau of Parks and Lands websites.

Cleared, re-blazed, and painted six miles of AWW boundary line.



Porch on Taylor



Camp Roof

Education, Interpretation, and Historic Preservation

The AWW staff continues to support and promote the historical aspects of the Allagash Waterway by collecting, interpreting, and displaying artifacts found by themselves, as well as, park visitors. Former Baxter Park Ranger, Bernard Crabtree, donated a large logging tool display to the waterway. The display is on exhibit at the Churchill Depot History Center, it consists of many hand tools used by loggers, carpenters, blacksmiths, dam builders, and farriers.

Work has been almost completed on the restoration of one of the former Henry Taylor Camps by the AWW staff. Ranger Trevor O'Leary and other waterway staff spent many hours on this project during the 2013 summer season. Milford Pelletier and his brother, the late Gary Pelletier did the bulk of the heavy restoration work in previous years.

A twelve foot pine log has been placed on the twenty-five foot section of the Tramway which had been restored by volunteers and AWW staff. It will be used as a static display representing the way in which logs were transported from Eagle Lake to Chamberlain Lake in the early 1900's. We have an interpretive plaque ready to be installed on the face of the log.

Ranger Chris Silsbee conducted a seminar for two groups of fourth graders in Mars Hill again this year. He talked about his work as a Ranger, the history of the AWW, and showed the students some of the tools that we use in our work. The students enjoyed a nice slide presentation as well. Matt and Ruth LaRoche staffed a booth at the Cabin Reliever show in Brewer. Matt did a presentation on planning for an Allagash trip at the show.

Ranger, Patrick Emery completed a Google Earth mapping project which is linked to the AWW and North Maine Woods websites. The project will assist visitors as they research information about the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Visitors will be able to find information about size and location of our campsites, distances between campsites, historical information, as well as rules and regulations. Pictures and descriptions of the campsites and other points of interest are included.



Current Publications: *(free, unless otherwise noted)*

- **NORTHRUNNER** documentary film (\$15.00)
- Allagash Wilderness Waterway brochure (informational brochure)
- Rules and Regulations for Recreational Use of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway
- Allagash Wilderness Waterway Special Fees, Tips for Visitors, and more (informational brochure)
- Temporary Canoe Storage on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway (brochure and tag)
- The Allagash Wilderness Waterway Souvenir Store (brochure)
- Allagash Wilderness Waterway Color map (souvenir brochure) (\$2.00)
- Allagash Wilderness Waterway Decal (\$2.00)

Staff Training

The major training provided in 2013 was Invasive Aquatic Plant identification. This training was provided by Roberta Hill who is from the Volunteer Lake Monitoring program.

Regular training was completed on the job and at staff meetings during the year. That training included:

Bureau of Labor Standards
AWW Management Plan
Law Enforcement policy review



Volunteers

During 2013 we had 68 individuals donate 293 hours to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.

Volunteers helped waterway staff accomplish the following tasks during 2013:

- Campsite maintenance
- Building picnic tables
- Building outhouses
- Assisting with portages
- Replacing tarp poles
- Peeled tarp poles
- Cleaning out the spring at Lost Popple Campsite

Incidents

There were 12 recorded incidents in 2013. The most serious incidents involved two groups that missed the portage trail around Allagash Falls and nearly went over the 38 foot drop.

Waterway staff responded to the following incidents during the year:

- 2 – Attempt to locate/lost
- 3 – Assist canoeists, Chase Rapids
- 1 – Accident/injury/evacuation
- 1 – Submerged snowmobile
- 1 – Building fire
- 2 – Allagash Falls
- 1 - Rule infraction
- 1 – Camp break in

Superintendent's Report

2013 was my fifth year as superintendent of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW). I feel very fortunate to be entrusted by the State of Maine with the management of this wild and scenic river and to lead the dedicated staff of the waterway.

The winter season began with nearly full winter campgrounds at Chamberlain Bridge and Kellogg Brook. We sold 45 of the 48 available sites, most were booked for the entire season on the first day of availability.

The ice fishing seemed a little slower than normal this year but many nice brook trout were seen on the ice by staff while making their normal rounds.

In March, the waterway crew hauled several 12"x 12" timbers and a large pine log into the tramway for the continuation of that restoration effort. Unfortunately, the volunteers that were lined up to jack and level the drive mechanism and then place the timbers under the machinery waited too long to start the job and then canceled due to low water in tramway cove. They have committed to work on the project in 2014.

The ice went out on Chamberlain, Eagle, and Churchill Lakes on May 2nd; Allagash Lake went out two days later.

We had a normal spring with most of the runoff occurring in late April. Reservoirs were filled behind Churchill and Telos Dams and we went into July with plenty of water stored for the summer canoe season. Little did we know, that it would be a rainy summer with ample water in the river for the entire canoe season.

The cool rainy summer extended the spring fishing season into July. It was an excellent season by all accounts with nice fat healthy brook trout in the 12– 16 inch range being the normal size fish.

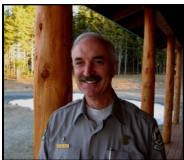
The spring, summer, fall camping season saw a modest 2% increase in use. This small increase is despite my efforts to raise awareness of the wonderful recreational opportunities available in the waterway through my monthly column in the Northwoods Sporting Journal and press releases to the general media. The Bangor Daily News has run almost every story that I have sent them. I have gotten a great deal of positive feedback from these articles, so I'll keep on writing.

The restoration of the Taylor Camp between Michaud Farm and Allagash Falls took a giant leap forward in 2013. Ranger O'Leary and other staff worked hard on this project. It is now weather tight, level, and sitting on long-lasting tamarack posts.

A Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund grant was awarded to the AWW in May. The \$5920.00 grant will be used for the production of a 30-40 minute video. The goal of the video is to inform, educate, and inspire potential visitors to the waterway. The video will include eight segments from three to eight minutes in length. The topics include: planning ahead for a trip to Maine's northern forest, planning a trip to the AWW, AWW geography, Allagash heritage, staying safe, minimize your campsite impact, AWW fisheries, and winter use. Potential visitors may watch the entire video or just the segments they are interested in. This project is under production at this time, with a delivery date of April 15, 2014.

A Bureau of Parks & Lands sponsored geocache was hidden at Big Eddy, about 1 ½ miles below Churchill Dam in April. The log book in the geocache was signed by 37 different people.

A huge thank you to the staff of the waterway, they do the work to keep the area well maintained, clean, and as hazard free as possible. Also to the support staff in Bangor and Augusta who help with funding and administrative support for the waterway.



Respectfully submitted,
Matthew LaRoche
Superintendent
Allagash Wilderness Waterway

Allagash Wilderness Waterway Administration 2013

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry, : Walter Whitcomb, Commissioner
Maine Division of Parks and Public Lands: Willard Harris, Director
Thomas Morrison, Director of Operations
Matthew LaRoche, AWW Superintendent



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